COLONY OF MAURITIUS

Annual Report

OF THE

Mauritius College of Agriculture

for the year 1949

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Annual Report of the Mauritius College of Agriculture for the year 1949

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Mauritius College of Agriculture for the year 1949.

1. Admission, Entrance Scholarship and Number of Students

Applicants for admission to the College numbered 11. Of these, 3 were holders of the London Matriculation or had equivalent qualifications. All the candidates sat for the admission examinations and 8 passed. On these results, only one Entrance Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Serge Lionnet, all the others having failed to reach the scholarship standard.

The number of full-time students was 25, made up as follows—

FIRST YEAR :	
8 new students and 2 who repeated their first year	10
SECOND YEAR :	
7 students promoted from first year	7
THIRD YEAR :	
8 students promoted from second year, including 1 who had failed, but who was allowed to follow the third year course on a part-time basis. This student will not be eligible for the Diploma of the College	8
TOTAL ...	25

One part-time student was admitted to follow approved courses. The Chemistry Laboratories were used in the morning by 5 outside students in order to obtain the practical training necessary for the Assistant Pharmacist and 1st M.B. examinations.

2. Terms

The College year begins in May as a rule and closes in April. The three terms, lasting 33 weeks in all, were made up as follows—

	weeks
10th January to 26th March	11
2nd May to 15th July	11
12th September to 26th November	11

THE HONOURABLE
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

3. Results of Examinations

The final examinations were held between the 4th and 14th April, 1949, and the results are given below; they include the percentage marks obtained by the students during the first and second year courses as well—

Name of student	*% of 3 years*	*Final Rank*	*Grade of Diploma awarded*
C. Desvaux de Marigny	73·2	1	Honours Diploma
S. North Coombes	70·8	2	,,
R. Thelemaque	69·3	3	Pass Diploma
J. E. A. Orian	66·4	4	,,
R. Baissac	64·9	5	,,
L. Lincoln	63·6	6	,,
A. Chauveau	60·2	7	,,
S. Mariette	59·3	8	,,
M. Piat	54·2	9	,,

Messrs. Orian and Piat, who had each failed in one subject, were granted the Diploma after they had been allowed to complete that subject at a subsequent examination.

Mr. C. Desvaux de Marigny came out first on the average for the 3 years and was awarded a scholarship of value £ 435 p.a. tenable in England for 5 years with a view to studying Veterinary Science.

Ten candidates sat for the City and Guilds Examination in Sugar Manufacture. Nine were successful and obtained a second class certificate: the percentage of passes among the students of the College was 100 per cent.

After an enquiry from the British Institution of Radio Engineers, the College accepted to hold the Graduateship Examinations in Radio Engineering in order to help local candidates who wished to graduate. Two candidates sat for this examination in November, 1949.

4. Work and Conduct of Laureates

The following laureates completed their studies during the year under review: E. Bouvet, B.Sc. (Chemical Engineering); J. Dupont de Rivalz de St. Antoine, B.S. (Chemical Engineering), R. E. L. Noël, B.Sc. (Mechanical Engineering) and R. Antoine, B.Sc. (1st class Honours, Botany), A.R.C.S. The first three have returned to Mauritius but the last one is still in England.

The scholarship of Mr. H. Leclézio lapsed and Mr. E. C. Vignes who intended to study Bio-Chemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology of London, failed at the admission examinations. He was finally admitted to Acton Technical College to read for a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry.

The following table shows the report on the work and conduct of the laureates—

Name	*Course*	*where studying*	*Report on work and conduct*	*Termination of studies*
Guy Avice du Buisson	Sugar Technology and Engineering	Louisiana State University	Satisfactory	September, 1950
Roger Bouvet	Veterinary Science	Royal Veterinary College, London	Passed 2nd professional examination in July 1949 conduct : satisfactory	July, 1952
Philip Robert Scott	Sugar Technology and Engineering	Louisiana State University	Satisfactory	August, 1951
Emmanuel Clement Vignes	Chemistry	Acton Technical College	Report not yet received	September, 1952

5. Staff

Lectures at the College were delivered by various members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture, with the help of some outside lecturers.

During the year, Dr. F. E. Lionnet, who had been lecturer at the College for the past 25 years, retired on pension. His vacancy was filled by Mr. A. Darné, M.R.C.V.S.

Mr. S. Staub, the Lecturer in Sugar Technology, went on mission to U.K., France and U.S.A. on 9th March, 1949 and returned in the Colony on 23rd November, 1949. During his absence his lectures were delivered by Mr. J. R, Leclezio, while the courses in Practical Sugar Technology and Surveying were conducted by Mr. S. Belcourt, Senior Test Chemist of the Central Board.

On 20th October, 1949, Mr. S. Félix, a graduate of the College, was appointed Temporary Assistant Plant Pathologist, Department of Agriculture and Assistant Lecturer in Botany at the College. He took over from Mr. E. Rochecouste, the Acting Botanist of the Sugarcane Research Station, who had been delivering lectures to first year students as from the beginning of the year.

6. Activities of the College

The Annual Sports were held under the direction of the College Sports Club on 11th June. The weather was inclement but in spite of this, the competitors displayed an excellent sporting spirit and the performances were highly creditable. Tea was served to the guests after the meeting.

The Officer Administering the Government Mr. J. D. Harford, C.M.G., graciously accepted to present Diplomas to graduates of the College on 22nd June, 1949. The ceremony took place in the College buildings, in presence of a large number of students' parents and guests. Speeches were delivered by the Officer Administering the Government, by Mr. W. Allan, O.B.E., the Principal and by Mr. J. R. Lagesse, the Registrar. This was followed by a Students' Dance. The ceremony, which occurred for the first time in the annals of the College, was a complete success.

In view of the projected transfer of the Sugarcane Research Station from the College buildings, plans were made for the redistribution of floor space at the College, and work was actually started.

7. Reorganization of the College

The plan of reorganization of the College, as submitted in details by the Registrar of the College, was passed by the Executive Council and in order to have the necessary funds for implementing the scheme, a bill was passed in Legislative Council, whereby the cess on exported

sugar was increased from 3 cents to 5 cents per 100 kgs. The future development of the College is thereby rendered possible, thanks to the generosity of the sugarcane planters who are responsible for the entire maintenance of the institution.

8. Advisory Board of the College of Agriculture

The Advisory Board of the College of Agriculture for 1949 was constituted as follows—

The Director of Agriculture—*Chairman.*

Nominated by His Excellency the Governor from among the members of the Board of Agriculture

The Honourable P. N. A. Harel

The Honourable H. G. Robinson, C.B.E.

Mr. P. G. A. Anthony

Mr. Fernand Leclezio.

Nominated by the "Société des Chimistes de Maurice"

Mr. Pierre de Sornay, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur

Mr. R. Avice.

Nominated by the Chamber of Agriculture

Mr. L. Baissac

Mr. F. Wilson.

The Board met six times during the year, and gave valuable and highly appreciated advice in connection with the administration of the College in general, but more particularly with the reorganization scheme.

9. Visits

During the year under review, the College was visited by the following personalities—

Sir Thomas Lloyd, K.B.E., Under-Secretary of States for the Colonies;

Mr. C. G. Eastwood, C.M.G., Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies;

His Excellency Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., Governor of Mauritius;

Dr. Cerighilli, Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences de Marseilles;

Mr. R. Coste, Director of Agriculture, Réunion Island;

Mr. R. Payet, President, Chamber of Agriculture, Réunion Island;

Mr. C.W.S. Hartley, Senior Agricultural Officer, Department of Agriculture, Malaya.

10. Finances

The annexures show the financial operations during the financial year 1948–49.

N. CRAIG,

23rd May, 1950. *Acting Director of Agriculture.*

Annexure I

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MAURITIUS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1948–49

	Rs.	c.
RECEIPTS : Proceeds of tax under Ordinance No. 2 of 1922 ; Schedules and Lecturers' fees, etc	116,506	25
EXPENDITURE	102,898	31

Agricultural College Fund as at 30th June, 1949

Receipts	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Available balance on 1.7.48		66,057 58
Proceeds of tax under Ord. No. 2 of 1922 : Special export duty on sugar from 1.7.48 to 30.6.49	113,643 60	
Schedules and Lecturers' fees, etc. ...	2,858 90	
Expenditure refunded	3 75	
		116,506 25
		182,563 83

Disbursements	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Apparatus, books and other laboratory supplies ...	9,273 61	
Upkeep of nursery and grounds	2,867 59	
Scholarship allowances	280 00	
Laureateships	45,317 00	
Contribution to Agricultural College Sports Club ...	100 00	
Contribution to Association of Former Agricultural Students	100 00	
Travelling	951 03	
Transport	64 11	
Incidentals...	6,909 55	
Contribution towards part salary of the Director of Agriculture	3,000 00	
Contribution towards salaries and allowances of certain officers of the Department of Agriculture...	23,915 00	
Contribution towards pension of certain officers ...	6,950 00	
Contribution towards part cost of repairs to gas plant	2,500 00	
Contribution to Mycological Institute	666 67	
Amount erroneously debited to Agricultural College Fund: Adjustment Voucher 167, February 1949 ...	3 75	
		102,898 31
Balance on 30th June, 1949		79,665 52
		182,563 83

N. Craig,
Acting Director of Agriculture.

23rd May, 1950.

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